



Application No: GB 0317126.1  
Claims searched: 1-18

Examiner: Carrie-Ann Elias  
Date of search: 14 November 2003

## Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

### Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
X	1,2,4, 6-9, 11,13-16	US 4842958 ✓ (HIGUCHI) see esp. column 2 lines 58 - 68 and column 7 lines 10-19 and column 7 line 65 - column 8 line 21
X	1-3,8,9,10, 15-18	JP 10219426 A ✓ (TOCALO) see esp. WPI abstract accession no. 98-502093/43 and figures
X	1-5, 9-11, 15,16	JP 10046316 A ✓ (KUBOTA) see esp. WPI bstract accession no. 98-189719/17
X	1-5, 9-11, 15,16	JP 11229162 A ✓ (KUBOTA) see esp. WPI abstract accession no. 99-523164/44 and figures
X	1-5, 9-11, 15,16	JP 9025558 A ✓ (KUBOTA) see esp. WPI abstract accession no. 97-150009/14
X	1-5, 9-11, 15,16	JP 11229162 A ✓ (KUBOTA) see esp. WPI abstract accession no. 99-523164/44
X	1-3, 8,9,11,15, 16	EP 0406579 A3 ✓ (NKK) see esp. page 4 line 38-page 5 line 10 and page 8 lines 12-17
X	1,2,4,8,9, 11,15,16	GB 1247881 (UNITED STATES STEEL) see esp. page 2 lines 88-103
X	1,2,4,8,9, 11,15,16	JP 56169788 A ✓ (NIPPON STEEL) see esp. WPI abstract accession no. 81-75760D/25

### Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

### Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC<sup>V</sup>:

C7B, C7F